



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 5005**  
**Appropriations Committee**  
**March 18, 2022**

Chairwomen Osten and Walker, Ranking Members Miner and France, and members of the Appropriations Committee, the House Republican Caucus would like to thank the committee for raising **HB 5005 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM**.

This bill would provide additional resources to the Victim Compensation Program administered by the Judicial Branch to provide relief to victims of motor vehicle thefts regardless of whether an arrest was made. Our caucus has been leading the charge for harsher penalties for the perpetrators of serious crimes. We have heard from countless victims throughout our communities who have called on legislators to impose stricter penalties for criminals. Listening to their heartfelt stories and knowing that in many cases the perpetrators were already released back into our community, while the victims are still suffering physically, mentally, and economically, has been especially troubling. It was with their trauma in mind that we decided that we need to equally push for victim rights as this conversation continues.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund is one of several smaller funds that are appropriated in the Connecticut budget. The revenue for this fund comes from fees and fines from defendants and convicted persons, as well as federal allocations from a handful of sources. At the same time, the state of Connecticut is dedicating tens of millions of dollars for convicted criminals and inmates for various learning opportunities, health care and most recently free phone calls at taxpayer expense. Yet, at the same time, the entire budget for victims is only \$3 million.

Having a vehicle stolen is not just an inconvenience to victims, but the aftereffects of these crimes ripple out to impact their entire lives. Victims need to replace not just the vehicle, but any belongings stolen from the vehicle, forgo any wages for missed work as a result of not having transportation, and live with constant fear that any personal information left in the vehicle can be exploited by the criminals in the future. It's important that we acknowledge that car thefts are not victimless crimes. We need to do more for the victims and at the very least advocate as loudly for them as we hear our fellow colleagues advocate for the criminals.

We thank you for your consideration of this proposal and hope that you will allow it to be voted on by the full General Assembly.

